

Testimony of John A. Doyle
before the Appropriations Committee Hearing
on
Governor's House Bill 6380
An Act Concerning the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2013.

February 28, 2011

Madames Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is John Doyle. I live in Barkhamsted and am an alumnus of Central Connecticut State University. I presently serve on the CSU Board of Trustees, having initially been appointed in 1993. The views I express are my own, and not necessarily those of the Board.

Joining me is Dr. William Cibes, Chancellor Emeritus of the CSU System, former OPM Secretary and distinguished former Member of this General Assembly.

I appear before you today in opposition to funding for the proposed higher education consolidation and to share my views on budget reductions proposed for the CSU System.

It has been implied that the proposed reorganization, in and of itself, will result in savings to the State's General Fund. There is nothing in the proposed legislation or the Governor's budget request to support any such savings. Indeed, the personnel head count found in the budget proposal for the three higher education units in consideration to be consolidated is actually HIGHER than the combined head count for these units as they exist today.

While it is not possible to determine how the proposed higher education authority will allocate these positions among the three units to be combined, it is certainly fair to say that the total head count will be greater than it is now. Dr. Cibes will have more to say on this.

The Governor has proposed that a strategic plan be developed for Connecticut's public higher education. I applaud the Governor's proposal and urge that such a plan include ALL publicly supported higher education units in the state. Development of such a plan will examine factual bases and propose specific structures, responsibilities and costs--the latter of which are of particular concern to this Committee. Absent such a plan, the proposed reorganization is no more than an exercise in inductive reasoning. The determinations have been made; the proofs will follow later. Indeed, the many questions and inconsistencies in the reorganization bill itself point not so much to inartful drafting as to a scheme in search of a justification.

Thus far, I have spoken of the proposed reorganization bill. Let me briefly speak to the proposed budget, itself. Reductions in general fund appropriations of the type and magnitude proposed will most certainly result in tuition and fee increases, reduced course offerings, thus delaying graduations, and quite possibly a freeze on enrollments. No one, not the Governor, not you, not our Trustees, not our faculty and staff and certainly not our student body, wants such an outcome.

Dr. Cibes will discuss the proposed reductions in greater detail but their consequences will be unavoidable. CSU has already absorbed cuts of some \$15 million over the past two fiscal years. It must, of course, live within the budget ultimately adopted by this General Assembly but there will be consequences of these budget cuts. These consequences, in terms of both costs and lost educational opportunities, most certainly will be borne by our students.